

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



**ASSOCIATION of
GOVERNMENTS**

Main Office

818 West Seventh Street

12th Floor

Los Angeles, California

90017-3435

t (213) 236-1800

f (213) 236-1825

www.scag.ca.gov

Transportation Conformity Determination for the Morongo, Pechanga, and Rest of South Coast Air Basin Nonattainment Areas for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Draft Report

Officers

President

Glen Becerra, Simi Valley

First Vice President

Greg Pettis, Cathedral City

Second Vice President

Carl Morehouse, San Buenaventura

Immediate Past President

Pam O'Connor, Santa Monica

**Executive/Administration
Committee Chair**

Glen Becerra, Simi Valley

Policy Committee Chairs

Community, Economic and
Human Development
Paula Lantz, Pomona

Energy & Environment

Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro

Transportation

Keith Millhouse, Ventura County
Transportation Commission

March 2013

I. INTRODUCTION

Transportation conformity is required under the federal Clean Air Act (CAA) to ensure that federally supported highway and transit project activities conform to the purpose of the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Conformity to the purpose of the SIP means that transportation activities will not cause new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the relevant National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). Conformity applies to nonattainment and maintenance areas for the following transportation-related criteria pollutants: ozone, particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), carbon monoxide (CO), and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated the new 8-hour ozone NAAQS on March 27, 2008 [Federal Register (FR)/Vol. 73, No. 60]. Effective on May 27, 2008, the EPA action tightened the primary standard for the 8-hour ozone to 0.075 parts per million (ppm) and revised the secondary standard for the 8-hour ozone to be identical to the new primary standard.

Subsequently, EPA published a final rule in the Federal Register on May 21, 2012 establishing initial air quality designations for most areas in the United States including California for the 2008 8-hour ozone standard (FR/Vol. 77, No. 98).

In the SCAG region, seven areas were designated as nonattainment areas (see Map 1 on page 5) for the new 8-hour ozone standard with different classifications and different attainment years including:

- Imperial County – Classification Marginal; Attainment year 2015
- West Mojave Desert Air Basin – Classification Severe; Attainment year 2027
- South Coast Air Basin – Classification Extreme; Attainment year 2032
- Coachella Valley – Classification Severe; Attainment year 2027
- Ventura County – Classification Serious; Attainment year 2021
- Morongo Areas of Indian Country (Morongo Band of Mission Indians) – Classification Serious; Attainment year 2021
- Pechanga Areas of Indian Country (Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the Pechanga Reservation) – Classification Moderate; Attainment year 2018

These new area designations became effective July 20, 2012. As a result, conformity needs to be re-determined for the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and 2013 FTIP for the new 8-hour ozone standard by July 20, 2013. A previous report, *the 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) and 2013 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Conformity Re-determination for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Final Report*, covers the first five nonattainment areas. This report covers the last two nonattainment areas of Indian Country and also updates the previous RTP/SCS and FTIP conformity re-determination for the whole South Coast Air Basin (to account for the exclusion of the Morongo and Pechanga Indian Country nonattainment areas).



Under the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Metropolitan Planning Regulations and U.S. EPA's Transportation Conformity Regulations, an RTP/FTIP conformity determination consists of five tests: consistency with the adopted RTP; regional emissions analysis; timely implementation of transportation control measures (TCMs); financial constraint; and interagency consultation and public involvement.

The ozone conformity determinations for Morongo, Pechanga, and rest of South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) reaffirm all applicable conformity findings for the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and the 2013 FTIP as well as all applicable conformity findings in the previous RTP/SCS and FTIP conformity re-determination report and addresses additional emissions analyses and interagency consultation and public involvement required for the new 8-hour ozone standard for these two Indian Country nonattainment areas.

Conformity Status of the Currently Conforming RTP/SCS and FTIP

The effective date for the conformity determination for the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and the 2013 FTIP, including all of the air basins in the SCAG region, is June 4, 2012. The conformity determination is currently effective for four years; thus the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and 2013 FTIP conformity will remain effective until June 4, 2016.

The new 8-hour ozone conformity determination for Morongo, Pechanga, and rest of SCAB does not affect the existing conformity schedule for the RTP/SCS or FTIP. However, the new federal conformity regulation for ozone requires SCAG to make a positive conformity determination for these two Indian Country nonattainment areas and receive approval from the U.S. DOT by July 20, 2013.

Process for Ozone Conformity Determination for Morongo, Pechanga, and Rest of SCAB

1. Conduct interagency consultation through SCAG's Transportation Conformity Working Group (TCWG) which includes representatives from the respective air quality and transportation planning agencies.
2. Perform regional emissions analysis. Since Morongo, Pechanga, and rest of SCAB areas are donut nonattainment areas within the SCAB and there are existing ozone emission budgets for the SCAB, a budget test has been performed for these two Indian Country nonattainment areas.
3. Reaffirm the existing conformity findings for the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and the 2013 FTIP as well as all applicable conformity findings in the previous RTP/SCS and FTIP conformity re-determination report.
4. Release the draft conformity analysis and documentation for Morongo, Pechanga, and rest of SCAB areas for the new ozone standard for a public review and public comment period.
5. SCAG Energy and Environment Committee approves the conformity determination and recommends adoption by SCAG Regional Council.
6. SCAG Regional Council adopts the resolution making the final conformity determination.
7. Submit SCAG's Conformity Determination to federal agencies for approval.



8. Approval by the federal agencies by July 20, 2013.

Reaffirming Approved Conformity Findings for CO, NO₂, Ozone, PM_{2.5}, and PM₁₀

The ozone conformity determination for Morongo, Pechanga, and rest of SCAB nonattainment areas includes a re-affirmation of the approved conformity findings for both the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and the 2013 FTIP as previously amended as well as all applicable conformity findings in the previous RTP/SCS and FTIP conformity re-determination report. This re-affirmation includes consistency with the adopted 2012-2035 RTP/SCS, regional emissions analyses including the new attainment years (2015, 2021, 2027, and 2032), financial constraint test, timely implementation of TCMs, and interagency consultation and public participation.

II. OZONE EMISSIONS ANALYSIS

Table 1 on page 6 present the results of the budget tests for the Morongo, Pechanga, and rest of SCAB nonattainment areas for the new 2008 8-hour ozone standard. Note that the values of total emissions from the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and 2013 FTIP in Table 1 utilize the rounding convention used by the California Air Resources Board to set the budgets (i.e., any fraction rounded up to the nearest ton) and are the basis of the conformity findings for these areas.

III. CONFORMITY DETERMINATION

SCAG has determined the following RTP/SCS and FTIP conformity findings for the Morongo, Pechanga, and rest of SCAB nonattainment areas under the required federal tests for the new ozone standard:

Regional Emissions Tests

- Finding: The regional emissions for the ozone precursors from the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and the 2013 FTIP meet all applicable emission budget tests for all milestone, attainment, and planning horizon years for the Morongo, Pechanga, and rest of SCAB nonattainment areas for the 2008 8-hour ozone NAAQS.

Re-affirmation of the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and 2013 FTIP Conformity Tests

- Finding: SCAG reaffirms the applicable conformity findings for both the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS¹ and the 2013 FTIP² as well as in the *2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS)* and *2013 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Conformity Re-determination for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Final Report*³.

¹ http://rtpscs.scag.ca.gov/Documents/2012/final/SR/2012fRTP_TransportationConformityReport.pdf

² http://www.scag.ca.gov/ftip/pdf/final/2013/Final2013FTIP_TA_Sec01.pdf

³ http://www.scag.ca.gov/tcwg/documents/Submittal_to_FHWA_FTA.pdf



- This reaffirmation covers the findings of all applicable pollutants, including consistency with the adopted 2012-2035 RTP/SCS, regional emissions analyses, financial constraint test, timely implementation of TCMs, and interagency consultation and public participation.

Inter-agency Consultation and Public Involvement Test

- Finding: In addition to reaffirming the public involvement and interagency consultation test for the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and the 2013 FTIP and the 8-hour ozone conformity re-determination for the RTP/SCS and FTIP, the 8-hour ozone conformity determination for Morongo, Pechanga, and rest of SCAB will undergo an appropriate process for interagency consultation and public participation. This process includes TCWG consultations on November 27, 2012, and March 13 and 26, 2013, respectively. This draft conformity determination report is being released for a 15-day public review period. The final conformity determination report will be presented to SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee and Regional Council on April 4, 2013 for approval.



MAP 1 2008 8-HOUR OZONE NONATTAINMENT AREAS IN THE SCAG REGION

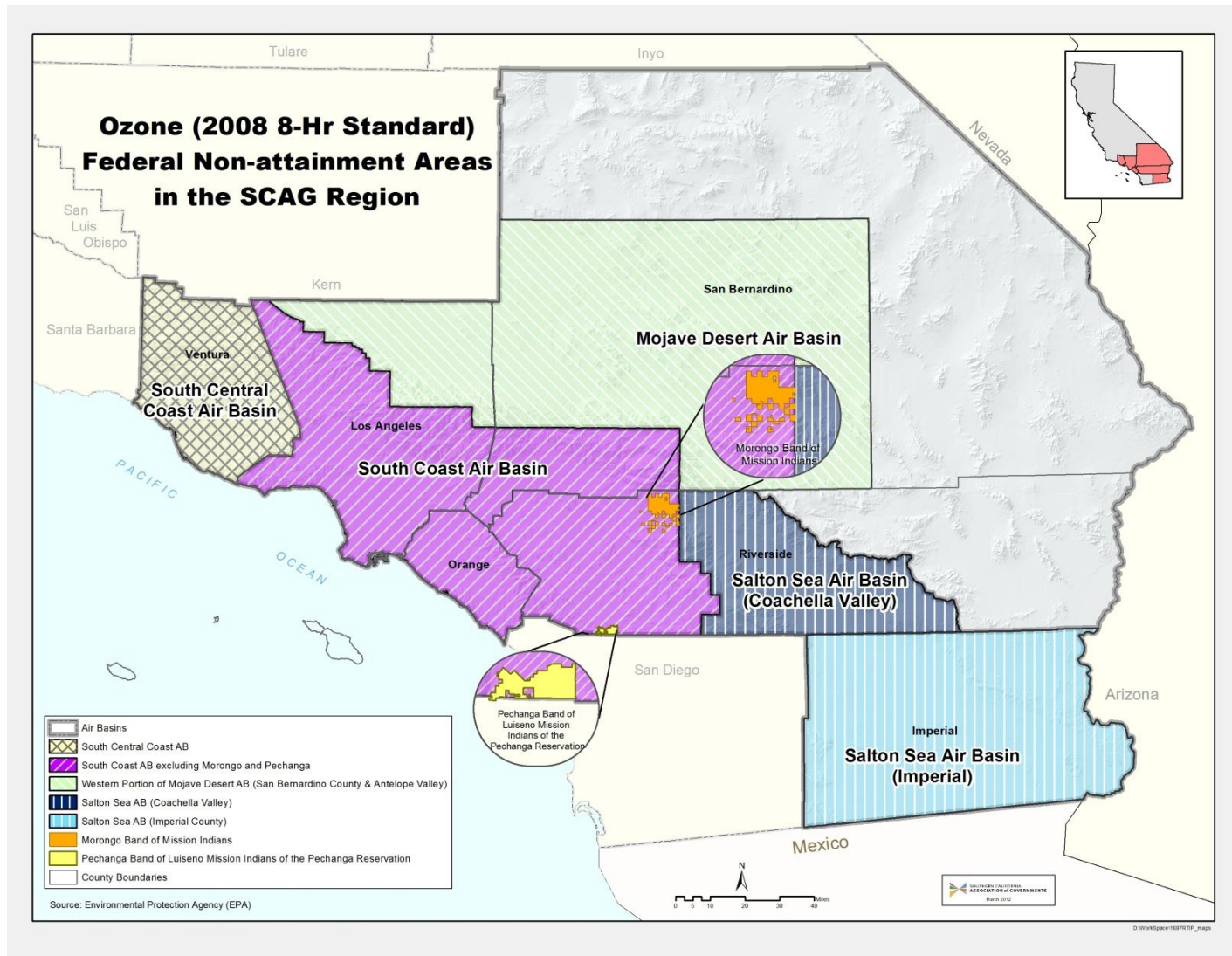


TABLE 1 2008 8-HOUR OZONE (SUMMER PLANNING EMISSIONS [TONS/DAY])

Pollutant		Nonattainment Area	2014	2017 ^a	2018	2020	2021	2023	2032	2035
ROG	Budget	SCAB	136	119	119	108	108	99	99	99
	Plan	Morongo Band	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
		Pechanga Band	0.0 (<0.05)	0.0 (<0.05)	0.0 (<0.05)	0.0 (<0.05)	0.0 (<0.05)	0.0 (<0.05)	0.0 (<0.05)	0.0 (<0.05)
		SCAB excluding Morongo and Pechanga	140.9	123.4	117.6	108.5	104.4	97.4	78.0	73.5
		Adjustments provided by ARB	-14.8	-12.4	n/a	-9.6	n/a	-7.7	n/a	-5.8
		Sum	126.5	111.4	118.0	99.2	104.7	90.0	78.3	68.0
		SCAB	127	112	118	100	105	90	79	68
Budget - Plan		9	7	1	8	3	9	20	31	
NOx	Budget	SCAB	277	224	224	185	185	140	140	140
	Plan	Morongo Band	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.9
		Pechanga Band	0.0 (<0.05)	0.0 (<0.05)	0.0 (<0.05)	0.0 (<0.05)	0.0 (<0.05)	0.0 (<0.05)	0.0 (<0.05)	0.0 (<0.05)
		SCAB excluding Morongo and Pechanga	278.7	223.9	205.7	179.1	164.5	154.1	119.1	117.4
		Adjustments provided by ARB	-23.7	-19.8	n/a	-15.7	n/a	-32.0	n/a	-15.0
		Sum	256.9	205.6	207.0	164.5	165.6	123.1	119.9	103.3
		SCAB	257	206	207	165	166	124	120	104
Budget - Plan		20	18	17	20	19	16	20	36	

^a2017 emissions interpolated between 2014 and 2018.